

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
May 12, 2010
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Martha Kelly, Min Lin, Holly Matthews, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

The meeting was called to order at 7:38pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mr. LaPlaca and Mr. Cryan, principal of Mansfield Middle School, presented Shaun Lee and Allison Koehler, eighth grade students, with the CABA Student Leadership Award for exhibiting exemplary leadership skills.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Doug Perkins, MMS Math and Science Enrichment Teacher, presented the Mansfield Ultimate Robotics, Team Franton Lin, Avery Fried, Sam Li, Merce Tabor and Geoffrey Russell, who qualified and competed at the VEX World Championships in Dallas. Also, presented were grade five students, Vida Javidi, Will Kwon, Michael Sotzing, and Orkan Olgac, who attended CECA's Fourteenth Annual Technology Exposition to demonstrate to state legislators the impact technology is having on the education of the students of Connecticut.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT: **MOTION** by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Walikonis that the Mansfield Board of Education endorse and recommend to the Town Council Option E from the Family of Options presented by the School Building Committee. Namely, to conduct all of the renovations at the Mansfield Middle School, as outlined in the proposal and to build 2 new elementary schools, replacing and closing our 3 existing elementary schools. The sites of the 2 new elementary schools should be determined after further analysis. And, that the Officer and Finance Committee of the Board of Education be authorized to write a report outlining the process the Board has undergone to arrive at this recommendation, the reasons the Board supports it, and advising the Town Council on other considerations and concerns, including location of the 2 new elementary schools. Lastly, that the Chair of the Board should deliver this report to the Town Council at its May 24th meeting. Discussion followed. **VOTE:** Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Matthews, Ms. Lin, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Kueffner, Ms. Patwa, Mr. LaPlaca, Ms. Silver-Bernstein in favor. Mrs. Paulhus opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. LaPlaca discussed considerations and concerns to be included in the report and asked for additional items Board members would like included.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- 2010-2011 Food Service Price Increase: **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to approve a school lunch increase of 10¢ per meal and breakfast increase of 5¢ per meal. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- Health Food Certification: Beth Gankofskie, Food Service Director, asked the Board to renew their support of the Healthy Food Certification. With the support, the District is eligible to be reimbursed up to \$.10 per child pending State Legislature. **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded Mrs. Paulhus to adopt the Connecticut Nutrition Standards Healthy Food Certification Statement for the 2010-2011 school year and to adopt the Connecticut Nutrition Standards Exclusion for the 2010-2011 school year. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- Mansfield Discovery Grant Award: Sandra Baxter, School Readiness Coordinator, reported that the Town had received the grant award of \$50,000.

- Financial Statements Ending March 31, 2010: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, discussed the quarterly financial statements. **MOTION** by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Kueffner to accept the Financial Statements ending March 31, 2010. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- BOE Retreat: The agenda of the May 27, 2010 Board Retreat will be goals and objectives.
- Phase II: Race to the Top: **MOTION** by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to support the Board Chair's signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for the State Department of Education's Connecticut's Race to the Top.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: Six new projects were reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size/Enrollment: The principals reported no significant change in class size and enrollment.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded Ms. Lin that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of May 13, 2010 be approved or received for the record: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor with Ms. Patwa and Mrs. Paulhus abstaining.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the May 6, 2010 Board meeting.

HEARING FOR VISITORS:

Matvey Sokolovsky, 499 Storrs Road, regarding Board discussion on school building project options.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Mr. Kueffner would like information on the school library system. He would also like the Board to stay involved in the school building process.

MOTION by Ms. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to move into Executive Session to discuss superintendent evaluation at 9:55pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Returned to Open Session at 11:05pm.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis to adjourn at 11:06pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk